1Lt Wax, David J 20 December 1965

C-130E 62-1843 345 TCS. 314 TCW, USAF, Sewart AFB, TN

1Lt Donald Clayton Smith (KIA)
1Lt David J Wax (KIA)
Capt Terry Fisher Katterhenrv (KIA)
TSgt William Henry Crisp (KIA)
A1C Willie Mitchell (KIA)

One of the losses on this day was the first Hercules assumed to be lost in the air to enemy action. The aircraft was attempting to land at Tuy Hoa under a very low cloud base when it was hit by ground fire five miles south of the air base and crashed killing all the crew. The Hercules (the first C-130E model lost in the war) was temporarily based at Nha Trang and was bringing in a load of 13 tons of aviation fuel and it was 1Lt Smith's first mission as aircraft commander. Enemy action was never actually confirmed to have caused the loss of this aircraft which may simply have flown into high ground in poor visibility. For some reason the remains of 1Lt Wax were not recovered and identified until December 1996. The serial 62-1843 is still carried today by an MC-130E of the 711th SOS.

Narrative author: Charles Louis Weinert, USAFA 1969. He compiled the information from the AOG Register of Graduates and fellow graduates as well as excerpts from Vietnam Air Losses by Chris Hobson, Midland Publishing. Sent by Charlie to the AOG in 2000.